

Lyle,

could you please! help stop the  
gross abuse of these sweet, little  
birds?

3121 '99 APR -5 AIO:58  
I strongly support! the petition  
to ban the forced molting of  
layer hens. docket #98P-0203/CP

Please Lyle I hope you will do  
something about this! These beings  
do not deserve to be treated this  
way, or ask to,

Like the article said, the lives of  
today's hens are miserable  
enough.

I feel empathy  
for them!! God Bless You

diana reese  
905 N 15th St  
Mo. Valley, Iowa

98P-0203

C 705

# Starved for

**Each year, something hideous happens in the egg industry. Factory farmers intentionally starve millions of hens for up to eight weeks. This is the birds' story.**

growing new ones. During molting season, hens don't produce eggs—an interruption factory farmers find unacceptably unprofitable.

Forced molting throws hens' systems into collapse, stressing and shocking them into losing their feathers quickly and forcing their worn-out bodies into a new laying cycle.

**T**he lives of today's hens are miserable enough to begin with: Hens used for their eggs are squeezed with up to five others into an indoor, wire cage with floor space the size of a folded newspaper! Born to flap their wings and walk around, these chickens are barely able to move; most can never even sit comfortably. To stop them from pecking at each other out of desperation, workers slice off the chicks' beaks with a hot blade, sometimes accidentally removing part of the birds' tongues or faces as well. But when egg production drops, at least 75 percent of the 260 million laying hens in North America endure another bizarre torment: Producers attempt to force one last laying cycle out of the exhausted spent hens before sending them to slaughter. They do it by cruelly and unnaturally forcing the hens into a "molt." In nature, hens replace old feathers with new ones every single year and spend about four months dropping old feathers and

To trick the hens into laying more eggs, they are deprived of food and water for two weeks or more. Our researchers uncovered hundreds of thousands of hens slowly and painfully starving to death as a result of this trauma. Typically, birds who survive grow weak, shed all their feathers and lose up to 35 percent of their body weight. Scottish researcher Dr. Peter Dun says food deprivation can last "until their combs turn blue" from lack of nutrition. To shock the birds' systems further, they are kept in total darkness for weeks on end.

As the days of torture go on, many birds—worth only pennies each to the factory farmer—die. The scared, confused survivors' crowded cages fill with rotting corpses and manure-covered feathers. The starving hens peck frantically at their empty feed trays, and

many resort to eating feathers. Forced molting also weakens hens' bones, resulting in fragile and broken limbs.

When egg production finally becomes too low to be profitable, the

**Almost unrecognizable as hens after a year in a laying cage.**



*This is so! Pathetic!*  
*Look at her! why? for a fucking dollar? I don't agree with this no a LIFE*

# an Egg

*Please read Lyle*

state of their battered and bruised flesh, like chicken soup and companion animal food.

Forced molting is so cruel that, in 1987, it was banned in Great Britain, and most European countries do not allow food deprivation for more than 24 hours. Yet, in North America, no laws protect these poor birds, and as you read this, more than 6 million hens are being force-molted.

Lovingly nursed back to health, a few months later these once sad, sickly birds had completely changed! They love to run in the yard on their strong little legs, dashing around like dancers with snowy feathers and bright eyes. They gobble up sunflower seeds, grass, grapes and their vegetarian worms! You fill of fresh air, exercise, good food and love. Penny and Sweet Pea have become so strong that they can fly

in and out of the chicken house and scatter down the yard. They love to



● Stop eating eggs, and educate others! Contact PETA for free eggless recipes.

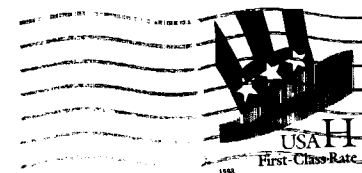
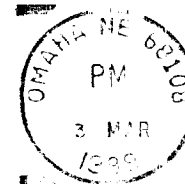
● If recipes call for eggs, substitute tofu, commercial egg replacer, arrowroot or bananas.

● Tell the U.S. Food and Drug Administration that you support the petition to ban the forced molting of layer hens (docket 98P-0203/CP). Write to: Lyle D. Jaffe, Dockets Management, FDA/DHHS, 12420 Parklawn Dr., Room 1-23, Rockville, MD 20857.

● Ask the U.S. Department of Agriculture to ban forced molting of layer hens. Write to: Dr. Ron DeHaven, Acting Deputy Administrator, USDA-APHIS Animal Care, 4700 River Rd., Unit 84, Riverdale, MD 20737.

weary hens are sent to slaughter. Because a lifetime of abuse has left them with injuries like broken bones, oozing abscesses and internal hemorrhaging, they are used in foods that hide the true

Ms. Diana Reese  
905 N. 1st St.  
Missouri Vly., IA 51555-1005



Lyle D. Jaffe \*  
Dockets management FDA, DHHS  
12420 Parklawn Drive, Room 1-23  
Rockville, Maryland  
20857

